

HEALTHY FAMILY PARTNERSHIP**HOUSE RESOLUTION**

2010 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This resolution of the House of Representatives urges that age appropriate materials on family violence prevention be made available in Utah's public schools and that state government continue community partnerships to help youth prevent family and dating violence.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- ▶ encourages the Utah State Board of Education and the Utah State Board of Regents, as resources permit, to ensure that all middle school, junior high, senior high, and post-secondary education programs in the state provide timely and age appropriate materials on the dangers of family and dating violence, how to identify the problem, how to get help, and how to provide support for friends or siblings caught in an abusive situation; and
- ▶ encourages the Department of Human Services to ensure, as resources permit, that high risk families receive violence prevention services, which research has shown significantly reduces the incidence of child abuse and domestic violence while providing the Utah taxpayer with a significant cost benefit advantage.

Special Clauses:

None

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the state of Utah:

WHEREAS, the violence, suffering, and death resulting from family and dating violence has devastated an alarming number of Utah's families;

WHEREAS, the tragedy of family and dating violence has a generational impact on children and youth;

WHEREAS, as with so many societal ills, preventing family violence and dating violence is essential;

WHEREAS, age appropriate late elementary, middle school, junior high, senior high, and post-secondary education programs should be evaluated by public and higher education to determine whether adequate prevention programs are in place at each level;

WHEREAS, each Utah school district, in cooperation with community partners, should determine if an improved prevention effort should be implemented to better educate these age groups on the dangers of family and dating violence and the skills needed to avoid them, both now and later in life;

WHEREAS, the future that Utah's children enjoy will hinge, in part, on whether they are armed with the knowledge, skills, and willpower to avoid family and dating violence; and

WHEREAS, providing research-based prevention services have shown a significant reduction in family violence and a significant savings to taxpayers:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the state of Utah encourages the Utah State Board of Education and the Utah State Board of Regents to ensure, as resources permit, that all middle school, junior high, senior high, and post-secondary education programs in the state review their current family violence and dating violence prevention efforts in partnership with Utah families, state government, the business community, city and county governments, private nonprofit organizations, and the religious community to provide timely and age appropriate materials and services and to prevent the needless suffering and taxpayers' burdens generated by family and dating violence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives encourages the Department of Human Services to ensure, as resources permit, that high risk families receive violence prevention services to reduce the incidents of child abuse and domestic violence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Utah Department of Human Services, the Utah State Board of Education, the Utah State Board of Regents, the Utah School Boards Association, and the Utah School Superintendents Association.